The U54 Pacific Island Partnership for Cancer Health Equity (PIPCHE) announces funding available for new Pre-Pilot research projects designed to address significant cancer health disparities among Pacific Islanders in Guam, Hawai'i, and the U.S. Associated Pacific Island jurisdictions. Cancer research expertise and experience of University of Hawai'i faculty is to be paired with UOG faculty on joint research projects that address cancer-related priorities and opportunities unique to the Pacific region. The PIPCHE/U54 supports research across the cancer research continuum; this competitive funding opportunity is open to all disciplines.

Funding Priorities: Proposal topics of particular interest to the PIPCHE/U54 include (but are not limited to) cancer survivorship, clinical trials participation, environmental (including marine) exposures, and anti-cancer natural products.

Funding Available: Up to $60,000 for 12 months in combined (UOG+UH) direct costs for pre-pilot cancer research is available beginning September 2022. Research funded through this FOA will be considered for future funding as part of the PIPCHE/U54 competitive renewal application, due early 2025. Continued funding is dependent upon project need, demonstrated progress, and the availability of funds.

Requirements: Because PIPCHE supports research collaboration and mentorship while leveraging resources at the partnering institutions, research proposals require project leader representation from both the UOG and UH. Collaborating investigators must be full-time faculty at UOG and UH. Joint research projects conducted primarily at the UOG may be in any area of cancer research, whereas joint research projects primarily conducted at UH must specifically address cancer health disparities in Pacific Islanders.

Applications: Following the NIH R03 application format, applications must include a Specific Aims page and a Research Strategy (not to exceed 6 pages) addressing Significance, Innovation, and Approach. 12-month budget pages for each partnering institution and a NIH Biographical Sketch for each collaborating investigator must be included. Submit applications by Monday, July 24, 2023 (HST) / Tuesday, July 25, 2023 (CHST) to: U54@cc.hawaii.edu and u54@pipche.org.

Review Criteria and Process: Concepts must align with the aims of the U54 parent grant and have the potential to develop into a competitive research project for consideration as part of the U54 renewal application, due to NCI in early 2025. Preference will be given to applications that address one or more of the funding priorities identified above. Complete applications received by the July 24 (HI) / July 25 (GU) deadline will be reviewed by members of the Partnership’s Internal Advisory Committee (IAC). The earliest anticipated start date is September 2023.

Informational Webinar: U54 leadership will be available on Tuesday, May 23 at 12:00 PM (HST) / Wednesday, May 24 at 8:00 AM (CHST) to provide an overview of this FOA, advise research concepts, respond to questions, and as needed, facilitate collaborations with investigators at the partnering institution; interested applicants are strongly encouraged to attend. Connection details are provided below. For more about PIPCHE’s aims, projects, and other information, please see the program’s websites at www.U54guamcrc.org and www.uhcancercenter.org/u54.

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